

The young people of Maryland are this State's most important human asset. We must not shortchange them by failing to devote all the help that is humanly possible for their development. If we do not devote this help to them, we are in reality shortchanging ourselves, for the problems of youth very often lead to their problems as adults. We would be negligent in our duty to our State if we did not take every step to ameliorate the situation.

Although there has been much concern about the problems that many young people are causing, including the commission of criminal acts, it is also evident that the present facilities and programs that this State provides for young people are not meeting the challenge. The current programs, departments, and facilities that deal with young people are fragmented and are not coordinated to their goal. This fragmentation results in inefficiency, duplication of effort, unproductivity, competition for funds, failure to establish priorities, and a general ineffectiveness that permeates this State's approach to the problem of the young.

A coordinated successful youth program would result not only in the saving of money and manpower, but more importantly, in the establishment of a viable and active program that would directly attack the problems of young people.

In order for this to be achieved, it may be necessary that all programs relating to young people be put under a single cabinet-level department, possessing broad powers.

To do less than the best for the young people of this State, would be a derogation of the duties of the General Assembly; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Legislative Council establish a Special Joint Committee during the 1975 Legislative Council to study the feasibility of establishing a cabinet-level Department of Youth Affairs, and make recommendations to the 1976 General Assembly concerning its establishment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Legislative Council and to Dr. Carl N. Everstine, Secretary to the Council.

Approved May 15, 1975.

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